

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 NEA-10 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00 /086 W  
-----172103Z 070179 /73

O R 172017Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8813  
INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX  
AMCONSUL LYON  
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE  
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE  
AMCONSUL NICE  
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG  
ALL EC CAPITALS 0294

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 01564

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: FR, PGOV, PFOR, PINT  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING'S TELEVISED PRESS  
CONFERENCE

SUMMARY. THE PRESIDENT'S MOST IMPORTANT POINTS, MADE  
DURING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE OF JANUARY 17, ARE AS FOL-  
LOWS: (A) THE BARRE PLAN WILL NOT BE MODIFIED BUT IT  
WILL BE APPLIED. (B) 1976 WAS THE YEAR OF THE  
LARGEST CONSUMPTION IN FRENCH HISTORY. (C) THE STRUC-  
TURES OF BUSINESS SHOULD NOT BE UTILIZED FOR POLITICAL  
ENDS. (D) COME WHAT MAY, I WILL COMPLETE MY SEVEN-  
YEAR TERM AS PRESIDENT. (E) THE PRIME MINISTER IS THE  
LEADER OF THE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY AND WILL LEAD  
THE MAJORITY IN THE 1978 LEGISLATIVE CAMPAIGN. (F)  
THERE WILL BE NO MODIFICATION OF ELECTORAL LAW IN THE  
FORESEEABLE FUTURE. (G) PLURALISM WITHIN THE MAJORITY  
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IS A NATURAL THING. (H) THE ELECTION OF A EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT THROUGH UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE WILL PASS IN THE  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THIS COMING SPRING. (I) NO COUNTRY  
HAS ANY LESSON TO GIVE US (CONCERNING THE ABOU DAOUD  
AFFAIR). FRENCH LAW MUST FOLLOW ITS COURSE. END  
SUMMARY.

1. THE ECONOMY: THE BARRE PLAN WILL BE CARRIED OUT AS ANNOUNCED; IT WILL NOT BE MODIFIED. THE FIRST PHASE OF THE PLAN WAS A PRICE FREEZE, THE SECOND PHASE IS THE APPLICATION OF MEASURES TO GET THE ECONOMY BACK ON ITS FEET. INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT, IN THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN WHICH FRANCE NOW FINDS ITSELF, ARE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN. AS FAR AS PRICE INCREASES ARE CONCERNED WE WILL MEET OUR OBJECTIVE FOR 1977. BUT NO REAL EVALUATION OF THE EFFICACY OF THE BARRE PLAN CAN BE MADE BEFORE THE END OF MARCH 1977. ONE THING, HOWEVER, THAT MANY FRENCHMEN TEND TO FORGET IS THE FACT THAT FRENCH INDUSTRY WAS REORGANIZED AND "FRENCHIFIED" IN 1976. SUCH CASES AS FRAMATON, ITT FRANCE AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR ARE INDICATIVE OF THIS. THERE IS THE ADDITIONAL FACT THAT AN INCREASE IN DEMAND BROUGHT ABOUT AN INCREASE IN IMPORTS WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT IN 1976. UNEMPLOYMENT HAS NOT HOWEVER INCREASED SINCE SEPTEMBER, AND ON THE QUESTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT THE FACT IS THAT 45 PERCENT OF THOSE NOW SEEKING WORK IN FRANCE FIND THEIR DESIRES SATISFIED IN THREE MONTHS OR LESS. WE MUST ALSO KEEP IN MIND THAT ONLY 50 PERCENT OF THOSE UNEMPLOYED ARE REALLY CHOMEURS (THOSE WHO HAVE ONCE HAD A JOB AND LOST IT). DOUBTS CONCERNING THE FRENCH ECONOMY HAVE BEEN COMMENTED ON, BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT 1976 WAS THE YEAR OF LARGEST CONSUMPTION IN FRENCH HISTORY. IN ADDITION, THERE WAS 7 PERCENT MORE INVESTMENT THAN IN 1975. THE ABSOLUTE PRIORITY RIGHT NOW IS TO CARRY THROUGH THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE FRENCH ECONOMY.

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-----172104Z 070148 /73

O R 172017Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8814

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

ALL EC CAPITALS 0295

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2. INTERNAL POLITICS -- FRENCH BUSINESSES SHOULD NOT BE POLITICIZED. FRANCE IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN EUROPE WHERE SUCH AN ATTEMPT IS BEING MADE. BY THIS I DO NOT MEAN THAT THE FRENCH WORKER CANNOT ENJOY THE SAME POLITICAL RIGHTS AS ANYONE ELSE, BUT THAT THE STRUCTURES OF BUSINESS SHOULD NOT BE UTILIZED FOR POLITICAL ENDS. THE RESULT OF A POLITICIZING OF INDUSTRY WOULD BE TO BLOC REFORM OF INDUSTRY AT THE VERY TIME IT IS SO NEEDED. THE FRENCH PRESIDENT WAS ELECTED FOR SEVEN YEARS AND WILL KEEP HIS TERM, WHATEVER MAY BE THE CIRCUMSTANCES. IT IS THE FUNCTION OF THE PRESIDENT TO INDICATE THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR FRENCHMEN, BUT HE SHOULD NOT ENTER INTO ELECTORAL DETAILS. THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF IS THE HEAD OF THE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY AND WILL LEAD THE UNCLASSIFIED

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MAJORITY'S CAMPAIGN IN THE 1978 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. THESE ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE WHEN SCHEDULED AND NOT BEFORE. CONCERNING FRENCH EDUCATION, THE BOOK "DEMOCRATIE FRANCAISE" POINTED OUT THAT FRENCH SOCIETY IS PLURALIST AND EDUCATION IS NO EXCEPTION TO THIS. FREEDOM IN EDUCATION IS PART OF THE REPUBLICAN TRADITION OF FRANCE, AND NATIONALIZATION OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS IS COUNTER TO THE CONCEPT OF PLURALISM IN EDUCATION. AS CONCERNS QUARRELS AMONG THE MAJORITY PARTIES, A CLARIFICATION IS NECESSARY. IF THE MAJORITY WANTS TO WIN IN 1978, IT SHOULD REMAIN PLURALIST. THE FIFTH REPUBLIC HAD A PLURALIST TRADITION UNTIL 1967, AND DE GAULLE HIMSELF DECLARED THAT HE WOULD BE PRISONER OF NO PARTY. WE ARE THE ONLY COUNTRY OF THE COMMON MARKET TO HAVE TWO-ROUND ELECTIONS AND THIS IS DUE TO THE POLITICAL DIVERSITY OF FRANCE. ALL MAJORITY PARTIES ARE AND SHOULD BE EQUAL

IN THE EYES OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF SHOULD BE ABOVE POLITICAL PARTIES. I HAVE ALWAYS TOLD MEMBERS OF THE RPR THAT THEY ARE THE SAME AS OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MAJORITY. I REGRET THAT MY MESSAGE WAS NOT CLEARLY TRANSMITTED. NO EUROPEAN COUNTRY HAS A SITUATION WHERE ONE POLITICAL PARTY HOLDS SWAY OVER ALL OTHERS. PLURALISM LEADS TO A FREEING OF THE FORCES OF SUGGESTION AND EXPRESSION. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE MUST BE AN UNDERSTANDING WITHIN THE MAJORITY, THAT IS TO SAY, A PLURALISM WHICH ORGANIZES ITSELF, NOT A UNITY THAT DIVIDES ITSELF. THE CURRENT MAJORITY MUST ORGANIZE ITSELF WITH ELECTIONS IN MIND. NATURALLY A PLURALISM OF CONCEPTS LEADS TO A PLURALISM OF CANDIDATES. I AM CONFIDENT THAT IF THE MAJORITY ORGANIZES ITSELF, IT WILL WIN IN 1978. LOOK AT THE TREMENDOUS DIVISIONS IN THE SO-CALLED UNION OF THE LEFT AS CONCERNS COLLECTIVISM AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. FRANCE IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN EUROPE WITH SUCH A FLAT DIVERSITY OF OPINION AS REGARDS A PROGRAM THAT IS SUPPOSED TO UNITE THE LEFT. THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN THE ELECTORAL LAW

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IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THERE WILL BE A PLURALISM OF CANDIDATES WITHIN THE MAJORITY FOR THE 1978 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, BUT IF A MAJORITY CANDIDATE CAN BE ELECTED ON THE FIRST ROUND, IT IS OBVIOUSLY CONTRARY TO MAJORITY INTERESTS TO RUN A CANDIDATE AGAINST HIM. THE MAJORITY HAS PRODUCED A SINGLE LIST IN 172 OUT OF THE 221 CITIES IN FRANCE WITH A POPULATION OF OVER 30,000, WHEREAS THE LEFT HAS ONLY REACHED AGREEMENT IN 50 OF THEM. IN PARIS THE IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER IS THAT THE DECISION TO GIVE PARIS A MAYOR WAS MADE AFTER MAY 1974. WHERE DIVISIONS WILL CAUSE THE MAJORITY TO LOSE THERE WON'T BE DIVISIONS.

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3. DIVERSE --

A. ABOU DAOUD: I HAVE THREE POINTS TO MAKE REGARDING PAST EVENTS. WHERE ARE THE THREE PEOPLE ARRESTED WHO WERE ACCUSED OF HAVING ACTUALLY PARTICIPATED IN THE MUNICH MASSACRE ITSELF? DURING THE ENTEBBE AFFAIR, WE ASKED THAT THERE BE NO DISCRIMINATION MADE AGAINST THE PARTICIPANTS AS REGARDS THEIR NATIONALITY. THERE WERE ISRAELIS ABOARD. AND WHEN THE CROAT NATIONALISTS HYJACKED AN AMERICAN PLANE, WE RETURNED THE PERPETRATORS TO THE US AUTHORITIES. CERTAIN COUNTRIES DO NOT ACCEPT THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE OF FRANCE, BUT OUR POLICIES ARE NOT MADE IN FOREIGN NEWSROOMS. NO ONE HAS ANY LESSONS TO GIVE US. FRENCH JUSTICE MUST FOLLOW ITS COURSE.

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B. THE DE BROGLIE AFFAIR: INVESTIGATION WILL BE COMPLETED AS IT WOULD FOR ANY OTHER CRIME IN FRANCE.

C. FRANCOISE CLAUSTRE: NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL BEING CARRIED OUT WITH THE AIM OF FREEING MRS. CLAUSTRE.

D. CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: THE DEATH PENALTY IS INSCRIBED IN FRENCH LEGISLATION. THE PRESIDENT, IN AND OF HIMSELF, CANNOT ABROGATE IT.

E. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE ELECTION OF A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THROUGH UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, HAVING BEEN DECLARED CONSTITUTIONAL BY THE FRENCH CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL, WILL PASS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THIS COMING SPRING.

F. THE FIRMNESS OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT'S CHARACTER: THE PRESIDENT'S FIRMNESS IS A FALSE DEBATE. FIRMNESS IS MEASURED BY FACTS, NOT NECESSARILY BY DICTATORIAL TONE OR LOUD VOICE.

4. EMBASSY ANALYSIS WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL.  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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